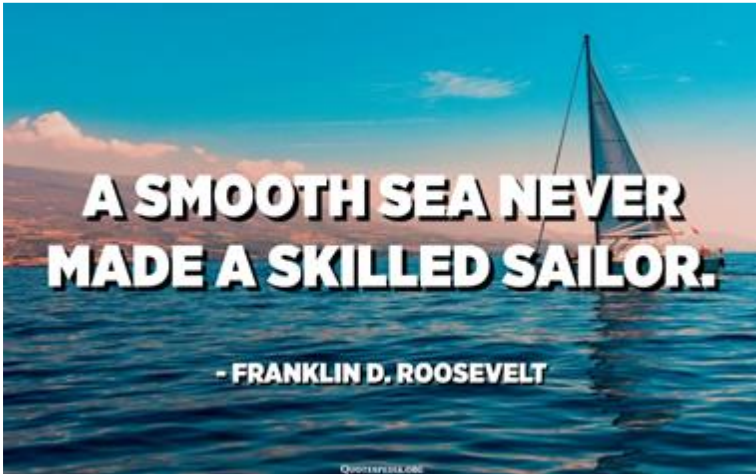




Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

**May 29, 2022**

**Ezra 4:1-5: Here Comes the Rough Waters**



Read Ezra 4:1-5

Who are these enemies?



## They didn't really want to help:

1. They offered to help because they were hoping to infiltrate and thwart the building project from the inside out.
2. When that didn't work, they went to plan B: discourage the exiled people of Judah, make them afraid, and bribe the workers to frustrate the plans.

*Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings. And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast.*

*(1 Peter 5:8-10)*

*I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore, be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. Be on your guard...*

*(Matthew 10:16-17)*

## **Application #1**

God still works mightily in adversity.

*“I am afraid that all the grace I have got of my comfortable and easy times and happy hours might almost lie on a penny. But the good I have received from my sorrows and pains and griefs is altogether incalculable. Affliction is . . . the best book in a minister's library. Glory be to God for the furnace, the hammer and the file. Heaven shall be all the fuller of bliss because we have been filled with anguish here below; and earth shall be better tilled because of our training in the school of adversity.” (Charles Spurgeon)*

## **Application #2**

The Gates of hell will not prevail against the Lord.

*And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock, I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.*  
*(Matthew 16:18)*

## **HOME GROUP Questions for Ezra 4:1-5:**

1. How do you think the following Scriptures apply to this week's passage?
  - 2 Corinthians 6:14
  - Matthew 10:16
  - 2 Corinthians 2:10-11
  - 1 Corinthians 15:33
2. Why do you think it is important to be careful who joins alongside of us to accomplish spiritual, or life goals? What questions should one ask when joining with others to accomplish a goal?
3. Do you think that who you allow to come alongside you determines how the practical or spiritual goal is to be accomplished?